

TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO EXTEND THE NURSES' QUARTERS AT THE NAVAL HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON, D. C., AND TO CONSTRUCT NECESSARY ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS AT CERTAIN NAVAL HOSPITALS

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DECEMBER 17, 1924.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. BUTLER, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 10685]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10685) to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to extend the nurses' quarters at the naval hospital, Washington, D. C., and to construct necessary additional buildings at certain naval hospitals, having had the same under consideration, reports the same back to the House without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

Section 4810, United States Revised Statutes, which provides for the purchase and erection of naval hospitals, was expressly amended and reenacted to read as follows by the act of March 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 902):

The Secretary of the Navy shall procure at suitable places proper sites for Navy hospitals, and if the necessary buildings are not procured with the site, shall cause such to be erected, having due regard to economy, and giving preference to such plans as with most convenience and least cost will admit of subsequent additions, when the funds permit and circumstances require; and shall provide, at one of the establishments, a permanent asylum for disabled and decrepit Navy officers, seamen, and marines: *Provided*, That hereafter no sites shall be procured or hospital buildings erected or extensions to existing hospitals made unless hereafter authorized by Congress.

In view of the proviso in the above-quoted law, it is thought that the language in the current Budget authorizing the use of the naval hospital fund might be construed as new legislation, and as such be stricken from the naval appropriation bill on a point of order because the necessary congressional authorization for the work is lacking. The granting of this authority will not necessitate any appropriation by the Congress, since the cost of this entire work is to be defrayed from the naval hospital fund. In other words, no

increase in the naval estimates, or in the amount eventually carried in the naval appropriation act for the fiscal year 1926, will result from the granting of the authorization requested in the inclosed bill.

The following is an explanation of the building program:

#### BUILDING PROGRAM—GENERAL

In connection with the building program under naval hospital fund for 1926 Budget, amounting to \$790,000, \$305,000 of this amount is for purposes which may be designated as necessary to the operation of the various hospitals concerned. In explanation, the following statement is presented:

(1) Reinforced concrete storehouses, League Island, Pa.: The hospital plant at League Island has wooden buildings alone, and those used as storehouses are of very temporary construction, so that very little protection from fire and theft is offered to the valuable stores contained in these buildings. Furthermore, for the proper accounting of stores, it is important to have a single properly arranged storeroom, \$50,000.

(2) Extension of nurses' quarters, Washington, D. C.: This addition will care for 25 nurses. The present quarters are inadequate at the present time. There are now 23 nurses being furnished commutation for quarters and subsistence, owing to lack of rooms for their accommodations in the present nurses' quarters at the Washington Hospital. Already the Veterans' Bureau has asked the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery to provide beds for an increased number of patients at the naval hospital, Washington, which would necessitate an increase in the number of nurses at that institution. It is an established principle in hospital management, civilian, as well as military, to have the nurses quartered in the hospital reservation, \$75,000.

(3) Nurses' quarters, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii: The nurses are at present quartered in the ward space of the hospital, in this way reducing materially the bed capacity of the hospital. Again it is undesirable to have nurses quartered in buildings with patients. A separate building for this purpose should be provided, \$100,000.

(4) Nurses' quarters, Canacao, P. I.: Within the past few months that part of the building used for lavatory purposes has had to be condemned owing to destruction by white ants. In fact, the building was only prevented from collapse by support of the plumbing installation. A new building is urgently needed. At the last Congress, authorization was secured for the rebuilding of the hospital proper with reinforced concrete, \$75,000.

As regards the construction requested to be authorized for officers' quarters, the following statement is presented:

At the time most of the existing permanent officers' quarters were constructed it was customary to provide quarters for two or more officers in the hospital building proper, but with the increase in the personnel of the Navy such space was needed for care of patients.

The question of quarters for officer personnel in the hospitals constructed under the direction of the Veterans' Bureau has been thoroughly considered, and the policy has been adopted of adequately housing the officer and attendant personnel, as well as the patient personnel. Not only is the Government reimbursed from the standpoint of the saving of commutation of quarters, but the efficiency of the hospital is materially increased by having key personnel near their patients. Up to the present time no provision has been made in any of our hospitals in the way of permanent quarters for any of the pharmacist personnel. These warrant officers, serving in various capacities, are making it highly important that certain ones of them should be on the hospital reservation. This particularly applies to the pharmacist commissary officer. Again, with the higher rents prevailing, these officers should be given proper consideration in the way of quarters.

Chelsea, Mass.: At present three sets of quarters. Authorization requested for two sets of junior officers' quarters and two sets of pharmacists' quarters, \$57,500.

Newport, R. I.: At present two sets junior officers' quarters. Requests one commanding officer's quarters, \$25,000.

New York, N. Y.: This is one of our largest hospitals with more than a thousand beds, but with only three sets of permanent quarters—one for commanding officer and two for junior officers. Authority is requested for the erection of two junior officers' quarters, \$37,500.

League Island, Pa.: This hospital has not been provided with a single set of quarters, a circumstance that has interfered materially with the efficient operation of this most important hospital. Authorization is requested for one commanding officer's quarters, three sets of junior officers' quarters, and two pharmacists' quarters, \$105,000.

Norfolk, Va.: At present one commanding officer's and two junior officers' quarters. Authority requested for two junior officers' quarters and three pharmacists' quarters, \$70,000.

Great Lakes, Ill.: At present one commanding officer's house and two junior officers' houses. Authority requested for one apartment house, containing four apartments, \$70,000.

Puget Sound, Wash.: This hospital was without any quarters until two years ago, when construction was provided for one commanding officer's house and one apartment house, containing four apartments for junior officers. Authorization is requested to construct two sets of quarters for pharmacists, \$20,000.

As regards the construction for officers' quarters at Pearl Harbor and Canacao, it might be stated that in these outlying possessions it is a matter of necessity to provide quarters, as it is almost impossible for officer personnel to secure suitable quarters, except at great distance from the hospital. Authorization is requested for two junior officers' quarters and two pharmacists' quarters at Pearl Harbor, and two junior officers' quarters at Canacao, \$100,000.

Guam, Mariana Islands: For the completion of sick officers' quarters, \$5,500.

The bill meets with the approval of the Navy Department, as shown by the following letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs:

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, December 12, 1924.

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS,  
*United States Senate.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: There is inclosed herewith a copy of a letter, together with a copy of a proposed bill, "To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to extend the nurses' quarters at the naval hospital, Washington, D. C., and to construct necessary additional buildings at certain naval hospitals," this date forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely yours,

CURTIS D. WILBUR,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,  
Washington, December 12, 1924.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a proposed draft of a bill "To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to extend the nurses' quarters at the naval hospital, Washington, D. C., and to construct necessary additional buildings at certain naval hospitals."

Section 4810, United States Revised Statutes, which provides for the purchase and erection of naval hospitals, was expressly amended and reenacted to read as follows by the act of March 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 902):

"The Secretary of the Navy shall procure at suitable places proper sites for Navy hospitals, and if the necessary buildings are not procured with the site shall cause such to be erected, having due regard to economy, and giving preference to such plans as with most convenience and least cost will admit of subsequent additions, when the funds permit and circumstances require; and shall provide, at one of the establishments, a permanent asylum for disabled and decrepit Navy officers, seamen, and marines: *Provided*, That hereafter no sites shall be procured or hospital buildings erected or extensions to existing hospitals made unless hereafter authorized by Congress."

In view of the proviso in the above-quoted law, it is thought that the language in the current Budget authorizing the use of the naval hospital fund might be construed as new legislation, and as such be stricken from the naval appropriation bill on a point of order because the necessary congressional authorization for the work is lacking. The granting of this authority will not necessitate any appropriation by the Congress, since the cost of this entire work is to be defrayed

from the naval hospital fund. In other words, no increase in the naval estimates, or in the amount eventually carried in the naval appropriation act for the fiscal year 1926, will result from the granting of the authorization requested in the inclosed bill.

The work contemplated under the inclosed bill was explained during the consideration of the Budget, and such details concerning this work as may be desired by the Naval Committees of the House and Senate will be promptly supplied upon call of the committees concerned.

In view of all the foregoing, this department earnestly recommends that the attached bill be enacted into law at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely yours,

CURTIS D. WILBUR,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

### The following is a history of the naval hospital fund:

By the act of July 16, 1798, Congress provided for the relief of sick and disabled seamen through a tax of 20 cents per month per capita, and authorized the President to purchase land and erect hospital buildings from the monies so collected.

The act of March 2, 1799, directed the Secretary of the Navy to impose a like tax upon the officers, seamen, and marines of the Navy, and to pay the same to the Secretary of the Treasury, and provided further that the officers, seamen, and marines of the Navy should receive the same benefits and advantages as were then provided for the sick and disabled seamen of the merchant vessels of the United States.

The single fund established by the two acts above mentioned continued until by the act of February 26, 1811, Congress established a board known as the "Commissioners of Navy Hospitals," consisting of the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of War, and by the same act voted the sum of \$50,000 out of the marine hospital fund to be paid to these commissioners, and to constitute the beginning of a separate naval hospital fund.

Since February 26, 1811, the naval hospital fund has had no connection with the marine hospital fund, or with any other funds of any kind. The commissioners were authorized and required to procure at suitable places proper sites for Navy hospitals, and to cause the erection of hospital buildings.

On July 10, 1832, Congress made further changes in the basic law, by which the commissioners of Navy hospitals were released and discharged from all further trust connected with the naval hospital fund, and the Secretary of the Navy was constituted the sole trustee; all the powers and duties theretofore imposed by laws on the commissioners of Navy hospitals were transferred by the act of July 10, 1832, to the Secretary of the Navy, and all acts and parts of acts contrary to the provisions of this act were repealed.

The acts of February 26, 1811, and July 10, 1832, when later condensed, were reenacted into section 4810 of the Revised Statutes, which stood without change from 1874 until March 4, 1913, when it was reenacted by Congress without change in the original language except by the addition of a proviso, as shown:

Section 4810 of the Revised Statutes of the United States is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 4810. The Secretary of the Navy shall procure at suitable places proper sites for Navy hospitals, and if the necessary buildings are not procured with the site, shall cause such to be erected, having due regard to economy and giving preference to such plans as with most convenience and least cost will admit of subsequent additions, when the funds permit and circumstances require; and shall provide, at one of the establishments, a permanent asylum for disabled and decrepit Navy officers, seamen, and marines: *Provided*, That hereafter no sites shall be procured or hospital buildings erected or extensions to existing hospitals made unless hereafter authorized by Congress."

In the earlier days of this trust fund sites were procured and buildings were erected at various times from its monies; in later times the three New England hospitals at Portsmouth, N. H., Chelsea, Mass., and Newport, R. I., were erected without one dollar of appropriation, at a cost of \$847,000, defrayed entirely from the naval hospital fund, and at other naval hospitals new buildings were erected and repairs to old buildings made, at an expenditure of approximately \$2,000,000 more. The three hospitals mentioned at the time of their completion were proclaimed the best examples of complete modern construction in the United States.



The naval hospital fund is not an appropriation, nor is it made up of moneys at any time appropriated by Congress; it is a trust fund which derives its revenues from within the naval service, and is administered by the Secretary of the Navy, who is its sole trustee; these revenues are:

(a) By the deduction of 20 cents per month from the pay of each officer, seaman, and marine (secs. 1614 and 4808, R. S.).

(b) By fines imposed on officers, seamen, and marines (sec 4809, R. S.).

(c) By the value of one ration per day allowed for each officer, seaman, and marine, during his continuance in hospital, the value of the ration for this purpose being specified under "Provisions," annually, in the naval appropriation act (sec. 4812, R. S.).

(d) By the relinquishment of disability pensions due officers, seamen, and marines, during continuance in hospital (sec. 4813, R. S.).

(e) By forfeitures on account of desertion (naval appropriation act, June 7, 1900).

(f) By proceeds of sale of naval hospital fund property, when so authorized, as by acts of June 12, 1858, and July 2, 1890, when the naval hospital fund was reimbursed for land transferred and sold in the sums of \$50,000 and \$92,000, at Chelsea and Brooklyn, respectively.



The first of these is the fact that the United States has a large and growing fleet of merchant ships, and that this fleet is becoming increasingly important in the world's commerce. The second is the fact that the United States has a large and growing fleet of naval ships, and that this fleet is becoming increasingly important in the world's naval power. The third is the fact that the United States has a large and growing fleet of fishing ships, and that this fleet is becoming increasingly important in the world's fishing industry. The fourth is the fact that the United States has a large and growing fleet of tugboats, and that this fleet is becoming increasingly important in the world's shipping industry. The fifth is the fact that the United States has a large and growing fleet of icebreakers, and that this fleet is becoming increasingly important in the world's shipping industry. The sixth is the fact that the United States has a large and growing fleet of cargo ships, and that this fleet is becoming increasingly important in the world's shipping industry. The seventh is the fact that the United States has a large and growing fleet of passenger ships, and that this fleet is becoming increasingly important in the world's shipping industry. The eighth is the fact that the United States has a large and growing fleet of oil tankers, and that this fleet is becoming increasingly important in the world's shipping industry. The ninth is the fact that the United States has a large and growing fleet of bulk carriers, and that this fleet is becoming increasingly important in the world's shipping industry. The tenth is the fact that the United States has a large and growing fleet of container ships, and that this fleet is becoming increasingly important in the world's shipping industry.